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Memorandum

To: Co-Chairs Clyde Burmaster & Barry Weinstein, MD

From: Economic Development Subcommittee Chair Hector Titus

Re: July and September, 2005 meetings

Date: October 14, 2005

The Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership Economic Development Subcommittee met July 15 and September 30, 2005 at the University at Buffalo Institute for Local Governance and Regional Growth. Present for the July meeting were subcommittee members Titus, Doolittle, Weinstein, and Witul. Present for the September meeting were subcommittee members Titus, Doolittle, and St. Pierre, along with ENRP Member Timothy Wanamaker, and Buffalo Niagara Partnership Small Business Development Manager Tracey Houston.

Small Business Assistance Website

We continue to await the state grant to move this project forward. In the meantime, our initial outreach efforts have been completed. A second outreach will be conducted when the project is in full development, as will the marketing committee's work. The writing group does need to be reconvened to work on the content for the site. We also continue to discuss additional small business efforts we can leverage the steering committee to work on following this project. The effort has already produced one positive outcome – ENRP has gained a new member. Ms. Melinda Rath Sanderson, Executive Director of the Canisius College Women's Business Center, is a member of the project's steering committee who became interested in our group through the effort.

Electronic (Smart) Permitting

At the June general meeting approval was granted to send a letter to Erie County Executive Joel Giambra requesting the county to take action to implement the electronic permitting website by taking the project live as soon as possible. That letter was sent, but as of yet no response has been received. **The Subcommittee suggested that individual ENRP members send letters to the**

Erie County Executive in support of ENRP assisting with the implementation of electronic permitting.

Small Business 311

ENRP Member Timothy Wanamaker told the subcommittee of a program in Chicago and New York City that provides a “wholesale change in how you do small business.” This includes a 311 information phone line and a website component, all with the goal of taking someone every step of the way through the process. Workforce development is also brought into the economic development realm (as opposed to standing alone). In Chicago and New York this was done both virtually and physically. Buffalo is pursuing these ideas and Wanamaker suggested that they could be carried forth into the broader region as well. Subcommittee Member St. Pierre added that there is such a “hand holding” effort in place for life sciences. We will further discuss the 311 system at our November meeting, and would like the entire group to hear more about the project in consideration of giving concept approval to the subcommittee to pursue the idea for the region.

The Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership Economic Development Subcommittee requests that ENRP Member Timothy Wanamaker give a presentation of the 311 small business system at the December general meeting.

Other Topics

Other topics discussed included the Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS).